

Oakland cops receive awards

By Harry Harris

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An Oakland police officer who prevented a man bent on suicide from falling onto a busy freeway was awarded the Police Department's highest bravery honor, the Medal of Valor, on Thursday.

At the same ceremony, another officer received the department's second-highest honor, the Medal of Merit, for subduing a woman with a gun who was threatening to shoot another officer.

The Medal of Valor went to Officer Jack King, 24, a 19-month member of the force for his actions on the night of June 12.

He saw a man hanging by his hands from a catwalk of the 35th Avenue overpass of Interstate 580, vaulted the railing and grabbed the man by his arms and prevented him from falling 30 feet onto the freeway.

King held onto the man until other officers arrived and helped pull the man to safety.

Officer Leon Drummer, 28, a four-year veteran, received the Medal of Merit for his actions July 31.

He and Officer Mark Angeja were investigating a disturbance in the 2000 block of 48th Avenue. While Angeja was busy talking to a man at the scene, Drummer observed a woman advancing on the pair with a gun in her hand yelling, "I'm going to kill you."

Drummer subdued the woman without anyone being harmed.

Jury clears cops in shooting

By Will Jones
The Tribune

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An Alameda County jury has cleared three Oakland police officers of negligence and wrongful death in the killing of an emotionally disturbed man nearly seven years ago.

The jury Friday decided that the officers acted in self-defense when one of them fatally shot Jacinto Clark Zamora, 25, in June 1982.

The verdict was the result of a lawsuit filed on behalf of Zamora's son, Antone Zamora, who was 5 when his father died.

The suit named as defendants the City of Oakland, police Chief George Hart and the three officers, Tommie Lee Young, Sidney Rice and Leon Drummer.

It sought an unspecified amount of general and punitive damages from the defendants.

Zamora was shot by Rice after he stabbed the officer in the back with a sword, according to

Oakland attorney Todd Boley, who represented the city and the officers.

The officers went to Zamora's East Oakland home in response to complaints from neighbors that he had threatened them with a bow and arrows and shouted racial epithets at them.

When the officers tried to take him into custody for a psychiatric examination, Zamora stabbed Rice with the 13-inch sword.

Zamora's family filed a similar suit in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, alleging that Zamora's constitutional and civil rights were violated.

The federal suit, which seeks \$2 million in damages, is pending. Boley has asked a federal appellate court to dismiss it.

Federal Judge John Vukasin dismissed the suit in 1985, but in 1987 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated both the federal and Alameda County Superior Court suits.